

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3896
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, YO, US
SUBJECT: CASE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN MICHAEL SEDMAK

REF: STATE 187140, BELGRADE 5002

1. CONSUL HALMO QUERIED THIS MORNING JULY 29 DEPUTY CHIEF OF CROATIAN BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS MONTILJO ON WHETHER SEDMAK WAS AMONG THOSE AMNESTIED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF CROATIA IN EARLY JUNE (ZAGREB 466). MONTILJO STATED THAT SEDMAK WAS NOT REPEAT NOT AMONG THOSE GRANTED AMNESTY BY THAT DECISION. HE ADDED THAT AT THIS POINT COMMUTATION OF SEDMAK'S SENTENCE RESTED IN THE HANDS OF SERBIAN OR FEDERAL AUTHORITIES. MONTILJO WAS NOT CERTAIN WHICH OF THESE AUTHORITIES HAS JURISDICTION.

2. WE HAVE REVIEWED OUR FILES AND FIND THAT IN THE PERIOD SINCE OCTOBER 2, 1974 WHEN WE FIRST LEARNED OF SEDMAK'S ARREST ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1974, WE RECEIVED THREE LETTERS FROM SEDMAK'S SISTER, MRS. AGNES HUNT, DATED JUNE 1, 1975, OCTOBER 28, 1975 AND FEBRUARY 22, 1976. WE RESPONDED TO EACH OF THESE LETTERS WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER RECEIPT. IN EACH OF OUR LETTERS WE GAVE MRS. HUNT A REPORT OF SEDMAK'S HEALTH, TOLD HER ABOUT MEDICINES AND READING MATERIAL WHICH WE HAD SENT TO HIM AND THE THEN CURRENT LEGAL STATUS OF HIS CASE. A CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED SEDMAK FIVE TIMES BETWEEN OCTOBER 1974 AND JANUARY 1976. AT SEDMAK'S REQUEST WE ASKED THE CROATIAN AUTHORITIES ON JAN. 6, 1976 TO
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TRANSFER SEDMAK FOR HEALTH REASONS FROM STARA GRADISKA PRISON IN

CROATIA TO SREMSKA MITROVICA PRISON IN SERBIA; THIS WAS DONE IN FEBRUARY 1976 AND WE SO INFORMED MRS. HUNT IN OUR LETTER OF MARCH 23, 1976.

3. ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS WE INTERVENED WITH THE CROATIAN AUTHORITIES AND SUCCEEDED IN FACILITATING THE VISIT TO SEDMAK OF HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND HIS FORMER WIFE, ALL OF WHOM RESIDE IN TRIESTE. FURTHERMORE, WE KEPT THE AMERICAN CONSULATE TRIESTE POSTED FOLLOWING EACH VISIT TO SEDMAK BY ZAGREB CONSULAR OFFICER IN ORDER TO KEEP SEDMAK'S RELATIVES IN TRIESTE INFORMED OF HIS STATE OF HEALTH. KAISER

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